

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, on April 5, 2017, I was unavoidably absent due to a family medical emergency and missed roll call votes 217–220. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll call vote 217: On ordering the previous question: NAY

Roll call vote 218: On agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 242: NAY

Roll call vote 219: On Motion to Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair: NAY

Roll call vote 220: On final passage of H.R. 1304—Self-Insurance Protection Act: YEA

38TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT (TRA)**HON. STEVE KING**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a very important day in U.S.-Taiwan relations. April 10th marks the 38th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). This important statute has been critical in defining the diplomatic, economic, and strategic relationship we have enjoyed with Taiwan over the last four decades. In 2017, Taiwan is the United States' tenth largest trading partner. The TRA has strengthened our relationship and helped encourage a particularly strong economic partnership.

The growth of Taiwan is a living breathing example that trade benefits humanity, and not just economically. Particularly in light of the scheduled meeting between President Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping, it is important for our nation to remember and commemorate the special relationship between the United States and Taiwan, a thriving and innovative economy that most countries envy. In this new and exciting era for our two nations, one that promises to emphasize bilateral trade agreements, I impress on the administration that a strong relationship between the U.S. and Taiwan is key to sustaining peace, stability and liberty in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to a continuing successful cooperation between the United States and Taiwan. I am also confident that if we continue to enhance our economic relationship, this dynamic partnership that we've built together will continue to thrive in the future.

HONORING MR. BERVIN HARRIS

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, this past February, I was honored to recognize outstanding members of the Bronx community during my office's annual Black History Month Celebration. During that time, we gave pause to com-

memorate the innumerable contributions that African Americans have made—and continue to make—to our Nation. Today, it gives me great pleasure to rise in honor of one of those exceptional individuals, a trailblazer in youth civic engagement through the power of music. It is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you to honor Mr. Bervin Harris.

Mr. Harris is the Co-Founder and CEO of Renaissance Youth Center in my district. He has over 30 years of social development experience in the areas of youth services and community development, and cofounded the Youth Center in 2001. As CEO, he has created and managed several successful programs throughout the Bronx community. Renaissance Youth Center serves close to 4,000 youth a week at multiple sites, providing children in the Bronx with educational programming, tutoring, and musical lessons. Mr. Harris also manages, writes and directs for the center's Music With A Message (MWAM) Band, performing with them in close to 100 shows a year. Mr. Harris is also the director of the center's citywide youth council, Youth In Power, with more than one thousand teens participating.

Under the direction of Mr. Harris, the youth council participates in precinct, community board, and mayoral meetings by partnering with community organizations and advocating for their peers and neighborhoods. Recently, the council led the charge to hold a local slaughterhouse owner accountable for properly disposing of their trash and keeping the surrounding area clean. Their efforts brought this quality of life issue to the attention of the health department and local elected officials which in turn forced the business owner to address the community's concerns. Mr. Harris has built many partnerships for Renaissance including with the New York Police Department, Carnegie Hall, NYC Parks Department, Berklee College of Music, and many more.

Prior to Renaissance, Mr. Harris was the program director at a Beacon program where he more than tripled the annual budget and was recognized as one of the 4 "Model Beacons" by the Department of Youth and Community Development.

Mr. Harris is also an artist on Capitol Records where as an accomplished musician, singer, song writer he has produced and written songs for a wide variety of musicians, ranging from Hip Hop artists like KRS-1 to R&B artists like Mary J. Blige to Jazz artists like Herbie Hancock. Mr. Harris has also written the music score for the stage play I Sing 4 Luv and recently co-wrote and directed the stage play Bronx Side Story. Mr. Harris received his undergraduate degree from Old Westbury College and management certificate from Fordham University.

Mr. Harris is an incredible advocate for the youth of our community, and he has made our borough a much better place because of his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Bervin Harris for his passion for uplifting the youth in our community.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FAMU
WOMEN'S SOFTBALL HEAD
COACH, VERONICA WIGGINS**HON. AL LAWSON, JR.**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. LAWSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of FAMU Women's Softball Head Coach, Veronica Wiggins. Coach Wiggins and her team celebrated her 700th career victory earlier this month in the Puerto Rico Collegiate Softball Classic.

Coach Wiggins reached this impressive milestone in her 26th season at Florida A&M University. With this win, Coach Wiggins is now the longest serving head coach in the school's 100-plus year of athletic history and ranked 44th on the NCAA's Career Coaching wins list for active coaches. Known as an intense competitor, master psychologist and mother hen, Coach Wiggins is a true leader in the Rattler Community.

Since the beginning of her career at FAMU in 1990, Coach Wiggins has been the architect of one of the more respected mid major Women's Softball programs in NCAA Division One. She has led FAMU Softball to a 226–76 record all-time in Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference play, while guiding her charges into postseason play eight times. Coach Wiggins was inducted into the FAMU Sports Hall of Fame, won the MEAC Outstanding Tournament Coach Award eight times and is a four-time MEAC Coach of the Year. She has served with a spirit of love and patience that has carried her into victory.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire FAMU Rattler community, I am proud to honor Coach Wiggins. She is an inspiration to many across northern Florida both on and off the softball field. Her enthusiasm and passion for her team have not gone unnoticed.

I look forward to watching FAMU Women's Softball Team future success and I wish Coach Wiggins well as she continues to lead the mighty rattlers to victory.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALL-
EN MISSISSIPPI NAVY SEAMAN
(SN) KATRINA RENEE GRADY**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen Mississippi Navy Seaman (SN) Katrina Renee Grady who died of an intracerebral hemorrhage on April 18, 2002, during Operation Enduring Freedom. She had been onboard the USS *Port Royal* when she became ill. She passed away at Bethesda Naval Medical Center, MD.

SN Grady was the youngest of six children raised by her mother, Mary Grady, in Greenville, Mississippi. She graduated from T.L. West High School in 1992. Following graduation from Mississippi Valley State University in 1998, SN Grady enlisted in the U.S. Navy. It was her desire to follow in the footsteps of her grandfather who served in the military and her brother, Charles Grady, who joined the Mississippi National Guard.

SN Grady's mother says Katrina was a smart girl who wanted more out of life and military service was the way to accomplish that goal.

"She wanted to serve her country most of all," Mary said. "She loved her work aboard ship. She was excellent."

Hundreds of people came to the funeral which was held at the St. Mathews Methodist Church in Greenville, including her fellow service members, school teachers, and classmates.

SN Grady's dedication to military service and to the protection of our nation will always be remembered.

VICE PRESIDENT JOSEPH BIDEN
ADDRESS AT THE PUBLIC MEMORIAL FOR JOHN GLENN

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the remarks of Vice President Joe Biden at a remembrance ceremony held in Columbus, Ohio on December 17, 2016 at the Mershon Auditorium (The Ohio State University):

When John Glenn was 10 years old, his father, his hero, a veteran of World War I, taught him how to play "Taps" on the bugle. They'd play together on Memorial Day in New Concord [Ohio], small flags and flowers next to gravesites—gravestones of the fallen. And John would recall that time and feeling when he said, where "Love of country was a given. Defense of its ideals was an obligation." And, "The opportunity to join in its [quests] and explorations was a challenge not only to fulfill a sacred duty but to join a joyous adventure.

With John, all the years I knew him and worked with him was always a joyous adventure.

Annie, what a joyous adventure you and John had together, on display for your children and the whole world to see.

You all know it. You can tell when a couple really, genuinely loves and enjoys one another.

It was infectious.

On behalf of President Obama and the First Lady, on behalf of the American people, Jill and I are here because we love you Annie, and we loved John. And together you taught us all how to love.

That's not something you usually talk about when you talk about heroes, especially heroes like John Glenn, who lived a life that was rigorous but tinged with just a little bit of magic.

Just a little bit of magic.

We talk about daring spirit, poise under pressure, mental and physical toughness, but for all his heroism that history will remember in war, in space, in public life, you felt something deeper with John.

Annie, on the way to get to Air Force 2, I got a call from John Kerry, who's somewhere over the Atlantic on the way to another mission in the Middle East to try to deal with Yemen. And he told me about his time he got to spend with you a couple days ago, and the family. He pointed out, he said, "Joe, you know John's only the ninth person in history

in the state of Ohio to ever lie in state. "Governor, I didn't know that."

Only the ninth in history.

And he talked about how much it meant to him to be with you. And he gave, spontaneously, what I think is maybe the best description of John Glenn I've ever heard—and I new John for 40 years. He said, "John came out of the heart of the country"—like you kids do—"and he stole America's heart." "Came out of the heart of the country and he stole America's heart."

And he did: He stole America's heart.

I remember as a kid, freshman in college, John's historic flight.

And Annie, you and John and Jill and I have been friends for 40 years. I know others have longer relationships but what a wonderful 40 years it has been.

We served in the Senate together side-by-side for 25 years, and we traveled around the world together. John was one of the happiest people I ever knew. Think about it—one of the happiest people I ever knew. He had that infectious smile. Even when things looked like everything was crashing down, John would walk into my office or walk into a caucus with that big smile on his face and I wondered, "Where in the hell has he been?" "Did he not just hear what I just heard?" (You think I'm kidding. I'm not kidding.)

But the world knew, [revered], and respected John, from Columbus to Cambodia, from Washington to Beijing. He loved being a senator. He loved his constituents and his colleagues. He loved his staff, many of whom are here today. And, boy, did they love him back.

And you could feel his love for his country and for his state and for the Marine Corps. He was kind of partial to NASA.

But most especially you felt his love for you, Annie, and for Dave and Lyn, and his grandchildren. All you had to do, as I said, was see John and Annie just walk together, just the way they looked at each other, and you knew that's what it's supposed to be like.

I said that to Annie today before we came in and she said, "Well, that's like you and Jill." I said, "No it's different. Everybody knows I love Jill more than she loves me. I think you, [Annie], loved him just as much.

The last time we were together, when Jill and I had Annie and John over to the Vice President's residence—I was looking at the picture this morning, Annie, of you guys walking down the steps, walking out to the gate, and Jill and I behind you. And the words of the poet Christopher Marlowe literally came to mind, and I had to rewrite this on the way to the plane. Christopher Marlowe said: "Come with me and be my love and all the pleasures we shall prove."

Well, together, Annie, you and John proved all the pleasures. You not only had a magical love affair—the other thing about you, you were partners. You were [unclear] partners. Together, you bore the way to fame and responsibility and with enormous humility, and a sense of duty that defined you as the greatest of America's greatest generation.

I think John defined what it meant to be America, what it meant to be an American, what we were about—just by how he acted. Always about promise. We were a country of possibilities, opportunity. Always a belief in tomorrow.

Tomorrow.

When John was at the house a couple years ago it's all he kept talking about: "What are you going to do now, Joe?" "What are we going to do tomorrow?" "We have all these opportunities."

Together, you and John taught us that a good life is built not on a single historic act—or multiple acts—of heroism, but a thousand little things; the thousand little things that build character, treating everyone with dignity and respect

John was one of the few of my colleagues who would be going to the restroom where there was a shoeshine guy. John would always pat him on the shoulder and give him a hug, understanding that despite fame and position everybody was John's equal.

Everybody was John's equal—in his mind.

And it all comes down to being personal. The President always kids me, Annie, because I'm getting older, now. I could even try to improve on Tip O'Neill's admonition about "all politics is local." I don't think John agreed with that either. I think, and I think he thought, all politics is personal. It's all personal.

It all comes down to being personal—to being there for family, and being there for friends, in good times and in bad times; like you and John were there for me and Jill when I was in the hospital. You were there for us when our son, Beau, was deployed and you were there when we buried him.

It's all about being personal.

Annie, you and John, as was mentioned earlier by the first speaker, were with Ethel [Kennedy]. I happened to be with Ethel Kennedy at an awards ceremony in New York, the little ripple of hope ceremony. And, ironically, a fellow who runs my office, who's a Ohio guy, said John "wasn't doing well." "You ought to call John." And I had a brief discussion with Ethel as I sat with her. And the story is well known about him talking to the kids, being sent back to Hickory Hill. But what struck me was I was told that when you and John got to Hickory Hill, John walked into Senator [Robert] Kennedy's private study and saw that Robert Kennedy, who was the only political [uncertain] I ever had in my life, had out a book of Ralph Waldo Emerson's poetry. And it was opened up, and in a leaf of the book, there in the margins, were comments made by Robert Kennedy. And the passage that John, I'm told, remembered was where Emerson said, "This time, like all times, is a very good one, if we but know what to do with it."

The thing that I liked most about John was he knew from his upbringing that ordinary Americans can do extraordinary things.

Ordinary Americans could do extraordinary things.

And he believed, I believe, he was confident that every successive generation would know what to do with it. And that's the charge I think John left us, Annie: to join our nation's conquests and our nation's explorations as a challenge, not only to fulfill a sacred duty, but to join in this joyous adventure.

So when the Marine plays "Taps" on the bugle at Arlington for our friend, we can look deep into the heavens and know with certitude that John believed—and was right—that future generations of Americans will also look deep within the heavens and understand how to explore, how to serve, how to love; and will come to understand that if we're looking for a message to send about our time here on earth, for what it means to be an American: It's the life of John Glenn. And that is not hyperbole.

So, God bless you, John.

God bless you, Annie.

And may God protect our troops.